

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub-  
AL 1. A component management system comprising:

storage unit which stores a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level;

a server which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit; and

at least one client, connected to said server via a network, which takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via said network.

2. A component management device comprising:

storage unit which stores a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; and

management unit which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit and which provides a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network.

09626965 "072700

Sub 2  
B2  
F

3. The component management device according to claim 2,  
wherein said plurality of components constitute a hierarchical  
structure and said storage unit stores meta-information  
expressing the hierarchical structure and said client takes out  
5 a desired component from said plurality of components  
constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-  
information.

4. The component management device according to claim 2,  
10 wherein the meta-information comprises taking-out limiting  
information related to the permission/non-permission of  
taking-out for each component, and wherein said client takes  
out the applicable component based on the taking-out limiting  
information only when said client gets the permission.

5. The component management device according to claim 2,  
wherein said component comprises patch information for  
automatically performing a patch processing to a firmware, and  
wherein said client performs the patch processing to the  
15 applicable firmware based on the patch information.

6. The component management device according to claim 2,  
wherein said client retrieves a desired component from among  
said plurality of components based on the meta-information.

09626965 "072700

7. The component management device according to claim 2,  
wherein said management unit sends a notice of revision to said  
client via said network when a component already stored in said  
storage unit is revised and sends a notice of new registration  
5 to said client via said network when a new component is  
registered in said storage unit, and wherein said client takes  
out said component at an arbitrary timing after said client  
receives the notice of revision or the notice of new  
registration.

10

8. The component management device according to claim 2,  
wherein said management unit conducts communications related  
to the development consignment of said product with a  
development maker side client placed in an external development  
15 maker and connected thereto via said network.

9. The component management device according to claim 2,  
wherein said management unit conducts communications for  
getting the permission of quotation of a catalog of parts  
20 constituting said product with an author side client placed in  
the author side of the catalog and registers the catalog as a  
data base in said storage unit when it gets the permission.

Sub  
A2

10. A computer-readable recording medium for recording a component management program for making a computer execute the steps of:

5 storing in a storage unit a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, inspection, and the like of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; and

10 managing the component data base stored in said storage unit and providing a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network.

add  
B4

00626965-072700